

“A journal club is a group of individuals who meet regularly to critically evaluate recent articles in scientific literature. Journal clubs are usually organized around a defined subject in basic or applied research”.



Journal Club

Quality improvement



Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education

Aims

A **journal club** can be used to teach:

1. Critical Appraisal of the literature
2. Research design
3. Research presentation
4. Up-to-date knowledge in the specialty
5. Evidence based practice
6. Parts of the curriculum to students

Journal Clubs

It is in essence a teaching method.

Due to its flexibility can be used for several reasons.



Style

There are usually three main styles of **journal club**.



Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education

Critical appraisal could be done in form of:

1. Critical appraisal of the **Introduction**
2. Critical appraisal of the **Methods**
3. Critical appraisal of the **Results**
4. Critical appraisal of the **Discussion/Conclusion**

Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education

2. Topic based style:

The most important papers on a subject in the past five years are selected and presented to find out what idea or method is correct or incorrect.

Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education

1. Current journal style:

Each presenter is given a list of current **journals** from which to choose and present.

Responsibility

Chair person or Consultant

1. Gets the agreement on topics
2. Select the papers to be presented
3. Provides the timetable
4. Provide feedback for the presenters

Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education

3. Evidence based style:

A clinical problem (Question) is the reason for the journal club.

Types of questions:

1. More accurate diagnostic methods
2. More effective treatment methods
3. Better prevention methods
4. Different procedures possible
5. Approaches to follow up



Timetable and location

- A timetable including the topics and list of presenters for the next six months must be given to all involved in the specialty group.
- Each **journal club** should follow a goal and end in a new approach to teaching or practice.

How to choose articles

If the aim is only teaching or giving up-to-date knowledge, any article in a prestigious journal might be good.

If a change in practice and clinical practice in particular is the goal then only systematic reviews and meta-analysis articles or evidence-based journals are appropriate.





The presenter/s should prepare a summarized version of whatever the presented as a take home message.

Frequency of journal clubs

Depends to the load of new articles in a specialty. However, one month interval is suggested.

The length of each session depends on how controversial is the issue. It is usually 30 minutes to 3 hours.



If journal club has been employed to teach parts of the curriculum, it must be seen in the course plan from the beginning of the semester.

Evaluation of journal clubs

Besides the evaluation of every session by the chairperson, an annual evaluation must be performed to show the effectiveness of journal clubs in improving the quality of teaching and practice.

Dr. R. Sarchami
PhD, Higher Education Administration &
Medical Education